

Message Text

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INFO AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 6011

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UNGA, CI

SUBJECT: DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY RYAN'S CALL ON CHILEAN
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE

SUMMARY AND INTRODUCTION: THE FOLLOWING CABLE REPORTS A
CONVERSATION BETWEEN DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY RYAN, CHILEAN
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE HUERTA AND CHILEAN DELEGATION OFFICER
COLLADO ON NOVEMBER 14. RYAN CALLED ON HUERTA AT THE FORMER'S
REQUEST. END SUMMARY AND INTRODUCTION.

1. RYAN THANKED THE AMBASSADOR FOR RECEIVING HIM ON SUCH
SHORT NOTICE. HE ALSO INDICATED THAT THE VISIT WAS MADE ON
THE SUGGESTION OF ASSISTANT SECRETARY ROGERS THAT RYAN TAKE
ADVANTAGE OF A LONG-PLANNED VISIT TO USUN TO SEE
AMBASSADOR HUERTA AND EXPLAIN THE USG'S VIEWS ON RECENT VOTES
AT THE UN CONCERNING CHILE.

2. RECALLING THE LONG TRADITION OF FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN CHILE
AND THE US, RYAN POINTED OUT THAT IT IS PRECISELY THIS
TRADITION WHICH HAS MADE CHILE SUCH A SUBJECT OF INTEREST AND
CONCERN IN THE US TODAY. HE FURTHER MADE IT CLEAR THAT THE
VOTE ON THE HUMAN RIGHTS RESOLUTION WAS THE CAREFULLY
CONSIDERED RESULT OF GOVERNMENT-WIDE DISCUSSIONS AND
REPRESENTED THE CONSENSUS OF ALL ELEMENTS OF THE USG. HE
ALSO PRESENTED THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE VOTE ON THE CHILE
RESOLUTION AND OUR PRESENTATION OF THE AMNESTY RESOLUTION ON
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THE FOLLOWING DAY.

3. ON THE QUESTION OF THE AMNESTY RESOLUTION, RYAN POINTED OUT THAT AMBASSADOR MOYNIHAN'S SPEECH CONTAINED QUITE FAVORABLE MATERIAL AS REGARDS CHILE'S RELATIVE OPENNESS COMPARED TO MANY OF THE SPONSORS OF THE ANTI-CHILEAN RESOLUTION. AT THE SAME TIME HE EMPHASIZED THAT CHILE WOULD NOT MATERIALLY IMPROVE HER POSITION BECAUSE OF THE FACT THAT OTHER'S CONDUCT IS WORSE. WHAT IS NEEDED FROM CHILE IS POSITIVE ACTION ON HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUES. RETURNING TO THE SUBJECT OF THE CONSIDERABLE US INTEREST IN CHILE, RYAN SUGGESTED THAT THIS MIGHT BE AN OPPORTUNE MOMENT FOR THE GOC TO CONSIDER ACTION THAT MIGHT TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE GENERAL US SYMPATHY FOR CHILE TO TURN PUBLIC OPINION AROUND. POINTING TO THE COOPERATION GOC ACTIONS AT THE RECENT INCIDENTS INVOLVING US CLERGY AND INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS INSPECTION OF DETENTION CENTERS, RYAN SUGGESTED THAT FURTHER STEPS OF THIS NATURE OR A RENEWAL OF THE INVITATION TO THE UNHRC, THE OASHRC OR A SIMILAR PRESTIGIOUS GROUP MIGHT BE WORTHWHILE CONSIDERING.

4. FINALLY RYAN RECAPPED HIS PRESENTATION STATING THAT OUR COOPERATION AND SUPPORT OF THE GOC IS LIMITED BY CHILE'S OWN DECISIONS AND ACTIONS ON HUMAN RIGHTS, DECISIONS AND ACTIONS WHICH CAN AND MUST BE CHILE'S OWN.

5. HUERTA EXPRESSED HIS SINCERE THANKS FOR RYAN'S VISIT AND EMPHASIZED HIS LONG-STANDING FRIENDSHIP AND ADMIRATION FOR THE US. HE SAID THAT HE WAS HURT BY OUR ABSTENTION ON CHILEAN HUMAN RIGHTS RESOLUTION AT 29TH UNGA, HAD NOT BELIEVED AT FIRST THE RECENT NY TIMES ARTICLE CITING A "HIGH US OFFICIAL" TO THE EFFECT THAT CHILE HAD SOLD ITS VOTE ON THE ANTI-ZIONISM RESOLUTION, AND WAS TAKEN COMPLETELY BY SURPRISE BY OUR VOTE IN FAVOR OF THE CHILE HUMAN RIGHTS RESOLUTION ON NOVEMBER 12. HE OBJECTED PARTICULARLY TO STATEMENT IN RESOLUTION ACCUSING CHILE OF INSTITUTIONALIZED TORTURE. RYAN REPLIED THAT THIS IS BASED ON WHAT VARIOUS COMMISSIONS HAD SAID. HUERTA EMPHASIZED REPEATEDLY THAT, WHILE NO DRAMATIC CHANGE CAN BE EXPECTED IN CHILE, STEADY PROGRESS TOWARDS NORMALIZATION HAS OCCURRED AND WILL CONTINUE. HUERTA ADDED THAT IT WAS PARTICULARLY INOPPORTUNE FOR US TO HAVE EXPLAINED ITS VOTE BEFORE THE VOTING SINCE THAT PROBABLY INFLUENCED THE VOTE OF OTHER DELEGATIONS. RYAN
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REPLIED THAT HAD NOT BEEN OUR INTENTION AT ALL AND CONTINUED THAT OUR DECISION ON THIS VOTE, WHICH WAS MADE AT HIGHEST LEVELS OF THE DEPARTMENT, CAME ONLY AT THE LAST MINUTE, MAKING CONSULTATIONS WITH CHILEANS IMPOSSIBLE.

6. HUERTA ASKED IF THERE WERE ANY POSSIBILITY OF A CHANGE IN OUR VOTE ON HUMAN RIGHTS RESOLUTION IN PLENARY; RYAN INDICATED THAT HE THOUGHT NOT.

7. HUERTA EMPHASIZED THROUGHOUT THE CONVERSATION HIS DESIRE TO MAINTAIN CLOSE CONTACT WITH USUN, TO BE HELPFUL TO US, AS THE CHILEAN MISSION HAS BEEN IN PAST AND TO AVOID "LACK OF COORDINATION." HE RECALLED THE SECRETARY'S STATEMENTS OF SUPPORT FOR THE GOC MADE TO HIM ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS WHEN HE WAS FOREIGN MINISTER.

8. REFERRING TO AMBASSADOR MOYNIHAN'S SPEECH ON AMNESTY, HUERTA SAID HE COULD SUPPORT EVERYTHING MOYNIHAN SAID. CHILE HAS BEEN OPEN TO THE OUTSIDE WORLD AND WILL REMAIN SO.

9. THE MEETING ENDED ON A CORDIAL NOTE AS HUERTA THANKED RYAN FOR HIS VISIT AND HIS DETERMINATION TO DO EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO BETTER US/CHILEAN RELATIONS.
MOYNIHAN

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